



# Youth Field Educator

## Position Description

**Classification:** Full-time Seasonal, Non-Exempt

**Reports to:** Youth Programs Manager

**Job Duration:** Mid-May to August; dates will be mutually agreed upon

### DEC Overview:

Denali Education Center (DEC) is a non-advocacy, for-purpose organization and partner of Denali National Park and Preserve. Our mission is to promote understanding and appreciation of Denali through fun, informative, and inspiring programs. Denali Education Center currently offers five flagship summer youth programs that serve a diverse population and a wide range of ages. These programs include:

**Tundra Tots:** A one-hour nature-based sensory program for children ages 2-5 years

**Denali Discovery Camp:** A week-long experiential learning adventure for students in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Denali Field Camps:** Campground-based learning adventures ranging from 3-5 days. Customized to fit the goals and abilities of the groups and organizations we work with. For 6<sup>th</sup> graders - early college.

**Denali Backcountry Adventures:** A week-long backpacking expedition for students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Wilderness Intensive Learning Development (WILD) about Denali:** A four to five-day wilderness camping experience for underserved populations, both adult and youth.

### Position Overview:

The Youth Field Educator will assist the Youth Programs Manager with planning, logistics, and preparation for all Denali Education Center youth programs. This will include leading youth programs in Denali's front-country and backcountry areas, with the potential to assist with youth programs at DEC's Talkeetna Campus. Successful candidates will be motivated, energetic, flexible, and organized individuals capable of working independently or in a small group setting. Applicants should expect to work in a wide variety of conditions including, but not limited to, varied weather patterns, cold temperatures, and remote off-trail areas of Denali's backcountry.

### Position Responsibilities:

- Lead and co-lead youth programs in front-country and backcountry settings in partnership with Denali National Park Rangers
- Develop and expand current curriculum to meet the needs of various youth programs
- Work with Youth Programs Manager on pre-program preparation and post-program de-briefing and tear-down programs (food purchasing and packing, gear usage, cleaning, etc.)
- Manage and maintain youth program equipment
- Assist in pre-program communication with participants as schedule allows
- Foster relationships with the National Park Service, local schools, current partners, and other youth education organizations to support Denali Education Center's mission.
- Assist in managing youth program photos to be used for marketing purposes
- Assist with social media, fundraising events, projects on/off campus grounds, and program support
- Serve as a mentor to high school aged Instructors in Training
- Communicate effectively to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for participants to explore

and connect with the natural world around them

- Follow and enforce COVID protocols as outlined by NPS, DEC, and State and Federal agencies
- Work flexible hours as needed

**Qualifications:**

- High School Diploma
- Required certifications (or ability to obtain): Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification, valid driver's license and insurable driving record, mandated reporter certification
- Experience leading wilderness trips or experience backpacking on and off trails in remote settings
- Experience with and passion for working with youth
- Culturally sensitive; ability to develop a rapport with individuals from diverse backgrounds

**Preferred Knowledge and Skills:**

- 2+ years of experience working in education or outdoor youth programming
- Outdoor technical skills (camping, orienteering, wildlife safety, risk management, etc.)
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace principles
- Curriculum development and lesson planning experience
- Ability to prioritize and conduct multiple tasks in a fast-paced and variable work environment
- Team player but with the ability to work independently
- Strong communication skills: oral and written
- Solid interpersonal communication skills with peers, staff, the local community, and youth

**Compensation:**

- Starting wage for Youth Field Educators is \$17/hour, wage is dependent on experience
- This position receives overtime pay (1.5x for any hours worked on a given day over the standard 8-hour workday, and any hours over a 40-hour week)
- DEC adult guest tips are pooled and dispersed upon completion of the summer contract
- Housing may be available for a nominal fee (\$200/month). Housing may be private or shared depending on availability. Housing is only available for people 21 years of age or older. Employee kitchen, laundry, and shower facilities will be available.

**Disclaimer:**

- This position requires instructors to drive participants in a 15-passenger van with a trailer attached. Our insurance mandates that our drivers be at least 23 years of age and have a clean driving record to meet insurability requirements.
- This position requires instructors to be physically capable of, but not limited to off-trail wilderness travel up to 10 miles a day, on-trail travel up to 15 miles a day, and the ability to lift and carry over 50lbs for an extended period.
- This position description reflects the Denali Education Center's best effort to describe the essential functions and qualifications of the Youth Field Instructor position. It is neither an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or qualifications nor a contract.
- This position requires a background check before being able to work with youth.
- This position requires interaction with the public. Although maintaining COVID safety is Denali Education Center's priority, there is a possibility of exposure in the position.

**To Apply:** Qualified candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and at least two references to Caitlin Mott at [youth@denali.org](mailto:youth@denali.org)